

## External Press Release: Muddy Branch Alliance

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### **Gaithersburg Groups Offer Free Film and Virtual Discussion on Native Plants to Inspire Local “Habitat Heroes”**

(GAITHERSBURG, MD) How can people in the region help pollinators, save water and conserve the natural world for future generations? To answer those questions, a free, virtual screening of the film “Hometown Habitat” will be offered in late February with a panel discussion to follow on March 2.

The events are hosted by the [Muddy Branch Alliance](#) and the Gaithersburg-based [Izaak Walton League of America](#). Funding is provided by the City of Gaithersburg and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

With registration, **anyone can view the film any time between 8 p.m. Friday, February 26, 2021, and midnight Sunday, February 28. The virtual panel discussion will be held on March 2 from 7 to 8 p.m.** featuring experts in regenerative landscaping and stormwater management. The panel discussion will focus on gardening with beautiful plants, creating a haven for butterflies and birds and promoting the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The film screening is limited to 100 households with priority given to residents of the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland. If additional spots are available, other registrants may use them.

Janette Rosenbaum, a member of the Muddy Branch Alliance Board of Directors says, “The film's message will inspire. All of us have the power to support habitat for wildlife and bring natural beauty to our patch of the Earth. The goal is to build a new army of habitat heroes and make natural landscaping the new landscaping norm.”

To sign up, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hometown-habitat-film-screening-and-discussion-panel-tickets-139932314319>.

The narrative for the film stems from the work of entomologist Douglas Tallamy, Ph.D., whose research, books and lectures about the use of non-native plants in landscaping sound the alarm about habitat and species loss.

#### **Why use native plants in gardens and landscaping?**

Native plants are vital to the survival of birds, insects and other wildlife. The hundreds of species of locally native butterflies, bees and other pollinators prefer native plants for food. Native insects, which provide the food for 95 percent of terrestrial birds, require native plants to reproduce. The wide array of locally native plants are well adapted to the variety of local soil and water conditions. Once established, native plants do not require fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or extra watering to maintain their beauty.



Photo credit: Merikay Smith